

Southern States Energy Board

Resolution on Best Available Control Technology for Coal-Based Electric Generation

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has begun regulating greenhouse gas emissions under the federal Clean Air Act; and

WHEREAS, as a result of EPA's action, major new sources of electric generation will be mandated to obtain Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permits setting forth Best Available Control Technology requirements for greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, major uncertainty exists because carbon capture and sequestration, which holds significant prospect to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, is still years away from being proven to be economically practicable or commercially available; and

WHEREAS, this uncertainty could paralyze the long-term planning and development of new electric generating units in the states at a time when the economy faces a critical void in the coming years of the electric power needed to support economic recovery and growth; and

WHEREAS, highly efficient power technologies, such as super-critical and ultra super-critical coal-fired electric generating units, along with integrated gasification combined cycle power plants, oxyfired plants and fluidized bed combustion plants, represent a significant advancement over earlier generation coal units in terms of efficient use of coal and in reductions of emissions, and are compatible with carbon capture and sequestration systems when they become commercially viable, which will lead to even further greenhouse gas reductions; and

WHEREAS, super-critical technologies, oxyfired and fluidized bed combustion plants are already demonstrated to serve the dual purpose of reducing the overall emissions profile of the electricity generation unit while providing efficient, affordable, and available power today and into the future; and

WHEREAS, integrated gasification combined cycle technologies provide a cost effective approach for hydrogen production and byproduct recovery; and

WHEREAS, it is in the states' interest to support the use of these advanced technologies that take advantage of existing coal reserves to offer the states significant environmental and economic advantages, rather than delay development of critically needed baseload electricity supply or resort fully to less efficient or more expensive technologies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Southern States Energy Board hereby urge their Member States and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, in issuing PSD permits for new coal-fueled electric generating units, and consistent with otherwise applicable law, to fully consider:

Adopted by the Southern States Energy Board on October 15, 2011

1. The need to act expeditiously in accordance with each state's need to develop new electric generation; and
2. The use of commercially available clean coal technologies that are as efficient as is economically practicable, including, but not limited to advanced super-critical pulverized coal, ultra super-critical pulverized coal, and integrated gasification combined cycle plants as well as oxyfired and fluidized bed fluidized units with similar achievable efficiencies that are carbon capture and sequestration-compatible, as potential Best Available Control Technology.